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IN THE CLAIMS

- 1 (Previously Presented). A method, comprising:
receiving broadcast communications including descriptions of available broadcast content independent of the content;
performing an automated rating algorithm to rate the content based on said descriptions to develop ratings of said content based on said descriptions;
transmitting the rating information for use by a content broadcaster; and
receiving broadcast content selected based on said ratings.
- 2 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the first communications link and the second communication link comprise a common transmission platform.
- 3 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the first communications link and the second communications link comprise separate transmission platforms.
- 4 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the rating feedback comprises a plurality of rated content pieces, and wherein transmitting the rating feedback comprises periodically transmitting a batch of the rating feedback to the remote location, the remote location being linked to the broadcast source.
- 5 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the rating feedback comprises a single rated content piece, and wherein transmitting the rating feedback comprises transmitting the rating feedback to the remote location in real-time.
- 6 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the second communications link comprises a continuous connection to the remote location, the remote location being linked to the broadcast source.

7 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the second communications link comprises a connection to the remote location that is initiated to transmit the rating feedback, the remote location being linked to the broadcast source.

8 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the broadcast communications include a schedule for the content descriptors that is received prior to receiving the content descriptors, the schedule providing information pertaining to when the content descriptors may be received.

9 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the content descriptors comprise a continuous stream of data that may be tapped into at any time to rate at least a portion of the plurality of content pieces via the rating algorithm.

10 (Original). The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving broadcast communications including the plurality of content pieces; and
performing a capture algorithm to selectively determine which, if any, of the content pieces should be cached, and
wherein the rating algorithm is identical to the capture algorithm.

11 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of any existing cached data files to generate the rating feedback.

12 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the content descriptors include data pertaining to a revenue-generating potential of at least a portion of the content pieces, and the rating algorithm includes a consideration of the content piece's revenue generating potential when generating the rating feedback.

13 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a user's previous viewing habits to generate the rating feedback.

14 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a content piece's size to generate the rating feedback.

15 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a user's preferences to generate the rating feedback.

16 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of an availability window corresponding to a content piece to generate the rating feedback.

17 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a future broadcast schedule to generate the rating feedback.

18 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a content piece's past revenue performance to generate the rating feedback.

19 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a review of a content piece provided by an external source to generate the rating feedback.

20 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a content piece's duration to generate the rating feedback.

21 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a user's age to generate the rating feedback.

22 (Original). The method of claim 1, further comprising:
generating a display on a display device that provides a user-interface that enables a user to rate content pieces so as to indicate a level of desirability for those content pieces if they are broadcast by the broadcast system.

23 (Original). The method of claim 22, wherein the user rates at least a portion of the content pieces.

24 (Original). The method of claim 22, wherein the rating algorithm automatically rates at least a portion of the content pieces.

25 (Original). The method of claim 23, wherein the rating algorithm automatically rates at least a portion of the content pieces that were not rated by the user.

26 (Original). The method of claim 22, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a user's previous viewing habits to generate the rating feedback.

27 (Original). The method of claim 22, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a content piece's size to generate the rating feedback.

28 (Original). The method of claim 22, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a user's preferences to generate the rating feedback.

29 (Original). The method of claim 22, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of an availability window corresponding to a content piece to generate the rating feedback.

30 (Original). The method of claim 22, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a future broadcast schedule to generate the rating feedback.

31 (Original). The method of claim 22, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a content piece's past revenue performance to generate the rating feedback.

32 (Original). The method of claim 22, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a review of a content piece provided by an external source to generate the rating feedback.

33 (Original). The method of claim 22, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a content piece's duration to generate the rating feedback.

34 (Original). The method of claim 22, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a user's age to generate the rating feedback.

35 (Original). The method of claim 22, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of any existing cached data files to generate the rating feedback.

Claims 36-60 (Canceled).

61 (Previously Presented). An article of manufacture, comprising:
a machine-readable medium that provides instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:
receive broadcast communications including descriptions of available broadcast content independent of the content itself;
perform an automated rating algorithm to rate at least the content based on said description to develop rating of the content based on the descriptions;
transmit the rating information for use by a content broadcaster; and
receive broadcast content selected based on said ratings.

62 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein the first communications link and the second communication link comprise a single transmission platform.

63 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein the first communications link and the second communications link comprise separate transmission platforms.

64 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein the rating feedback comprises a list of rated content pieces, and wherein transmitting the rating feedback comprises periodically transmitting a batch of the rating feedback to the remote location, the remote location being linked to the broadcast source.

65 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein the rating feedback comprises a single rated content piece, and wherein transmitting the rating feedback comprises transmitting the rating feedback to the remote location in real-time.

66 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein the second communications link comprises a continuous connection to the remote location, the remote location being linked to the broadcast source.

67 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein the second communications link comprises a connection to the remote location that is initiated to transmit the rating feedback, the remote location being linked to the broadcast source.

68 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of any existing cached data files to generate the rating feedback.

69 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein the content descriptors include data pertaining to a revenue-generating potential of at least a portion of the content pieces, and the rating algorithm includes a consideration of the content piece's revenue generating potential when generating the rating feedback.

70 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a user's previous viewing habits to generate the rating feedback.

71 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a content piece's size to generate the rating feedback.

72 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a user's preferences to generate the rating feedback.

73 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of an availability window corresponding to a content piece to generate the rating feedback.

74 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a future broadcast schedule to generate the rating feedback.

75 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a content piece's past revenue performance to generate the rating feedback.

76 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a review of a content piece provided by an external source to generate the rating feedback.

77 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a content piece's duration to generate the rating feedback.

78 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein the rating algorithm includes a consideration of a user's age to generate the rating feedback.

79 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein execution of the instructions by the machine, further cause the machine to generate a display on a display device to provide a user-interface that enables a user to rate content pieces to indicate a level of desirability for receiving those content pieces if they are broadcast by the broadcast system.

80 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 79, wherein the user rates at least a portion of the content pieces.

81 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 79, wherein the rating algorithm automatically rates at least a portion of the content pieces.

82 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 80, wherein the rating algorithm automatically rates at least a portion of the content pieces that were not rated by the user.

Claims 83-129 (Canceled).